

Amendments to the Claims:

71 1. (Currently Amended) An assay assembly, comprising:
a chip on which an array of reactive species is immobilized; and
a storage well having a continuous base and side walls;
wherein said chip is located in said storage well and rests on said base of said
storage well surrounded by said side walls, said chip being retained in said storage well by
retaining means comprising at least one hot or cold formed projection on the inner surface of
the side wall.

72 2. (Original) An assembly according to claim 1, further comprising a
protective, removable packaging provided over the storage well.

73 3. (Previously Amended) An assembly according to claim 1, wherein the
chip substantially covers the area of the base.

~~4-5~~ (Canceled).

6. (Original) An assembly according to claim 1, further comprising a
carrying tray for carrying one or more storage wells for use with a chip processing
instrument.

74 7. (Original) An assembly according to claim 6, further comprising a
plurality of carrying trays arranged in a stack.

8. (Original) An assembly according to claim 1, wherein the inner surface of
the side wall of the storage well tapers inwardly adjacent the base.

9. (Original) An assembly according to claim 1, wherein the base is square.

10. (Original) An assembly according to claim 1, wherein the storage well
comprises a plastics moulding.

11. (Original) An assembly according to claim 1, the assembly having a
plurality of the storage wells fixed together in an array.

75 12. (Previously Amended) An assembly according to claim 11, wherein the array comprises three storage wells.

76 13. (Original) An assembly according to claim 11, wherein the storage wells in the array are made from a single plastics moulding.

14. (Canceled).

77 15. (Original) An assembly according to claim 11, further comprising a protective, removable packaging over the storage wells.

78 16. (Previously Added) An assembly according to claim 12, wherein the three storage wells are arranged in a line.

79 17. (Currently Amended) A method of constructing an assay assembly, comprising:
providing a storage well including a base and side walls; and
inserting a chip on which an array of reactive species is immobilized into the storage well, the chip resting on the base of the storage well and being surrounded by said side walls, the chip being retained in the storage well by retaining means comprising at least one hot or cold formed projection on the inner surface of the side wall.

18. (Previously Added) The method of claim 17, further comprising providing a protective, removable packaging over the storage well.

80 19. (Previously Added) The method of claim 17, further comprising placing the storage well into a carrying tray.

20. (New) An assembly according to claim 1, wherein the projection extends partially over the chip whereby the chip is located between the projection and the base.

81 21. (New) A method according to claim 17, wherein after inserting the chip the projection extends partially over the chip whereby the chip is located between the projection and the base.